

25. (Currently amended) The road guiding method in a navigation system of claim ~~21~~
24 wherein the act of outputting the characters contained in said image is performed audibly.

P2 26. (Currently amended) The road guiding method in a navigation system of claim ~~21~~
24 wherein the act of outputting the characters comprises the act of displaying the characters.

REMARKS

In the Abstract:

The Examiner noted that the Abstract should be a single paragraph. The abstract has been amended to place it in single paragraph format

In the Claims:

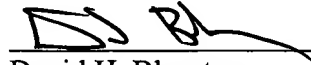
The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 16, and 20 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,102 (the "Ito patent"). The Examiner rejected claims 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, and 21 – 26 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Ito patent and other references.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the pending claims. The filing date of the Ito patent is August 8, 2000. The present application claims priority to a Japanese Patent Application filed on April 14, 2000. The claim for priority, including submission of a certified copy of the priority document, has been acknowledged by the Patent Office. Because the claim of priority predates the filing date of the Ito patent, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the section 102(e) and 103(a) rejections to the pending claims.

The Examiner also objected to claims 15, 25, and 26 due to clerical errors in claim numbering. The claims have been amended to correct these errors.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application.
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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